REGISTERED NO. M 4345

MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1944 No. 38

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

NEW AND MIGHTIER BLOWS

The United Nations are now about to strike new and mightier blows at Nazi-occupied Europe from offensive bases in the west, south and east

Only by uniting our full strength with the full strength of other free peoples of the world have we moved from the defensive to the offensive. By maintaining our unity, we will certainly achieve final victory. By continuing our unity after the war, we can assure peace in which mankind can live, work and worship in peace freedom and security

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT
in his 15th Lease-Lend Report to the U.S. Congress, on Monday

CONTENTS

	PAGE
A Splendid Performance. (H.E. the Viceroy's Telegram).	3
Magnificent Total. (H.E. Sir Arthur Hope's Message) ..	4
Cheerful Givers. By Sir Robert Denniston, *Kt.*	5
EDITORIAL—	
The Battle of Italy	6
RUNNING COMMENTARY—	
The Burma Front—Jap plans upset: Tokyo's Propaganda for the Chinese, etc.	7–9
Seshiah, the Curious Villager. (*By* R.G.).	12
Story of a Dead Man Resurrected	14
Japs' Cruelty to Indians	15
War and Diamond Industry	16
Ode for Victory. By M. Krishnamurti	16
Repair and Salvage Units of the R.A.F.	17
War Diary	19–20

[NOTE.—*The summary of news and comments contained in the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW *generally relate to events and statements published till Wednesday, every week.*]

WE ARE IN GOOD HEART

"We are in good heart, for we can justly say that whatever dangers may still threaten the Commonwealth and the Empire, we have at this moment to our hand the men, weapons, resources and mastery of situation which make the final issue certain. Throughout this bitter terrible conflict, I have never doubted that the response of my colonial peoples to all the calls made upon them would be swift, wholehearted and complete. It is a wonderful thing for me to reflect that the promises of loyalty and support which so many of you sent to me in dark days of our history have been redeemed many times over."

HIS MAJESTY THE KING, *in an Empire Day Message, on Tuesday.*

❖

HELP THE FIGHTING MEN

"The duties of all persons responsible for the conduct of foreign affairs in a world war of this deadly character, and of all who, in different ways, exercise influence, is to help the fighting men to perform the heavy task entrusted to them by ensuring them of all possible ease in the execution and advantage in the victory. Everyone who is in a position to guide public opinion . . . and others should keep this very clear duty before their eyes. They should always think of the soldier in battle and ask themselves whether what they say or write will make his task easier. We long for the day to come when this slaughter will be over and when this additional restraint which imposes itself upon every conscientious man in war time can be relaxed or will vanish entirely."

MR. CHURCHILL, *in initiating the debate on foreign affairs in the House of Commons, on Wednesday.*

❖

MESSAGE TO CHINA

"I carry to China a message that neither the swamps of Burma, nor the Himalaya Mountains, nor the Japanese warships shall stop America from bringing all possible and prompt aid to this great and enduring people. The President's message to China is just that.

The Great Chinese leader, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has heard from the President directly. My visit is merely one of emphasis so that hundreds of millions of Chinese people may know that the American will to aid China is permanent and continuous until victory has been achieved."

HENRY A. WALLACE, *United States' Vice-President, in Washington, on Saturday.*

MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1944 No. 38

A SPLENDID PERFORMANCE

HIS EXCELLENCY LORD WAVELL

His Excellency the Viceroy on being informed of the fact that the Madras Governor's War Fund has reached a total of Rupees Three Crores has sent the following telegram to His Excellency the Governor of Madras:

"I am delighted to hear that your War Fund has now reached a total of Rupees Three Crores. This is a splendid performance and I send my warmest congratulations to Madras and my best wishes for the continued success of the Fund."

MAGNIFICENT TOTAL

WAR FUND REACHES RS. 3 CRORES

His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope, Governor of Madras, has issued the following message:—

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
OOTACAMUND,
May 18th, 1944.

The War Fund has to-day reached the magnificent total of Rs. 3 crores.

All classes of people, rich and poor, have continued their contributions with the same unstinted generosity. I am proud that this Presidency not only leads all other Provinces in its voluntary contributions but has in addition subscribed Rs. 31 crores to defence loans.

Your gifts are a fitting tribute to the supreme gallantry of our soldiers. They were an inspiration in the dark days when we were fighting desperately for our very existence. I know that I can count on all of you to continue them in the brighter times that lie before until final victory is won.

Arthur Hope.

GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

. . . And Madras is only one Province !

CHEERFUL GIVERS

By SIR ROBERT DENNISTON, *Kt.*

FROM time to time the Press regales us with figures which purport to indicate the magnitude of somebody's war effort, be it Great Britain's, the U.S.A.'s, Canada's or India's, in terms of pounds, shillings and pence, dollars, or rupees, annas and pies, as the case may be. I have long passed the stage at which the accountancy side of the war ceased to be comprehensible and the addition of a nought or two to the lease-lend figures, or to the budget of one of the warring countries merely induces in me the same sense of bewilderment which afflicted Mr. Churchill's father (was it not) who was unable to cope with "those damn dots." But if these astronomical figures, figures beyond the realms of fantasy, leave us rather breathless, we have a very clear comprehension of the significance of more modest figures which may directly concern us.

And so the figure of three crores, a sum which epitomises the generosity of the people of this Presidency, conveys quite a lot to us, and we are able to view, in its proper perspective, the attainment of one more landmark by the Madras Governor's War Fund. Estimates of the cost of the war vary, but at the highest estimate we of the Madras Presidency have paid for the war for 3½ hours, and at the lowest for 3 hours.

There are various ways of combating sleeplessness and one's mind ranges over the whole gamut of one's everyday affairs—that crushing repartee which came to us too late; those intricate business negotiations; that cinema show which we saw last night; that off drive which whistled to the boundary; how tiresome X was at that meeting this morning; that holiday, in anticipation or retrospect; that grand slam in spades which eluded us.

BETTER SOPORIFIC

I can prescribe a better soporific than all these. In these 4½ years of war we of this Province have paid for 3 to 3½ hours' total warfare against the enemy. Which 3 hours of the war would you soonest have paid for? You pay your money (note this prerequisite) and you take your choice, and you go to sleep bombing Berlin with planes paid for by Madras, sinking the Bismarck (with Madras torpedoes) and, in these fateful days inaugurating second fronts all round the map.

In actual practice our money has been spent otherwise, and less spectacularly, in ways which are familiar to the readers of these pages, but nothing can deprive the people of this Presidency of the knowledge that for something over 3 hours the war is ours, and much may happen in 3 hours. The Madras Governor's War Fund is concentrating at the moment on the comfort of the serving soldier, sailor, airman and merchant seaman, and on the alleviation of the lot of prisoners of war. Subscribers will agree that their money could hardly be better spent, but if their inclinations are in other directions they can earmark their subscriptions in any way which seems good to them. There was a time when the objects of the Madras Governor's War Fund and the National Defence Loans Committee seemed in danger of clashing, but happily there is no limit to the generosity of the people of the Madras Presidency and the constant flow of subscriptions to both funds must be a source of keen satisfaction to those to whom the prosecution of the war transcends all other considerations.

THE BATTLE OF ITALY

GENERAL ALEXANDER'S great offensive in Italy is going on well—very well indeed. It is the opening of a campaign in which the full punching power of the Allied Armies in Italy is going to make itself felt. The importance of the campaign lies in the fact that it is a precursor of the all-out Allied attack on the Fortress of Europe and will merge into the grand strategy which is likely to take definite shape both from the West and the East.

THE offensive was launched on May 11 at 11 o'clock in the night by a thunderous barrage from a concentration of artillery which rivalled or surpassed that of the historic battle of El Alamein. British, Indian, Dominion and Polish troops of the regrouped Eighth Army dealt a terriffic blow at the Gustav Line with the object of opening up the Liri Valley. General Clark's Fifth Army which was on their left flank synchronized its attack with that of the Eighth Army. Before this the Eighth Army had crossed its first major barrier, the Rapido river. Opportunity to move itself and its equipment across the river was given by an hour-long barrage of shells from the Fifth Army. Then the Eighth Army moved towards Cassino against bitter resistance from the German First Parachute Division who successfully defended Cassino in February. Indian troops who have played a magnificent role in the fighting in Italy captured San Angelo which is a small-scale Cassino, 2½ miles below the Monastery Hill. There was house-to-house fighting in which Indian soldiers with drawn knives rushed at the Germans in corners and basements. They then mopped up small pockets of resistance within the bridgehead across the Rapido river. Indian Engineers working under great hazards erected within a few hours two steel bridges, which enabled squadrons of tanks supporting the Indians, to cross the river. Attempts were made by the enemy to destroy the bridges and damage was caused, but it was quickly repaired by Indian Sappers. Along with British troops Indians broke into the main Gustav Line defences in the Liri Valley.

THE advance of Allied troops forced Marshal Kesselring to retreat on a 10-mile curved front extending from a few miles from the sea right up to the Liri Valley. He has fallen back on the advance defence works of the Hitler Line. It is now significant that German propaganda is fighting shy of calling the line by the name of their leader.

THE capture of Cassino has ended one of the grimmest battles of the Italian campaign. The enemy held on to Cassino and the Monastery Hill area for over three months, in spite of terriffic artillery and air bombardment. *Reuter's* Special Correspondent stated that Kesselring was completely out-manoeuvred in the Italian battle and with more than half of its crack parachutists lost at Cassino was faced with an out-flanking threat in the Hitler Line.

NOW the Allies are attacking the Hitler Line along its entire length. This has compelled the German forces to build another switch line running through Piedimonte and Pontecorvo to Terracina. The Poles have since captured Piedimonte, the northern anchor of the Hitler Line, and the French troops of the Fifth Army which pushed up the road from Sant Oliva into the Pontecorvo-Pico defences threatening the "switch" section of the Adolf Hitler Line have now captured Pico, its northern pivot.

PONTECORVO, the king-pin of the Hitler Line, has also been captured by the Eighth Army. Kesselring has thrown in all the mobile forces including those from north of Rome into the Battle of Italy. The Fifth Army's threat to the rear of the Hitler Line has placed Kesselring's vaunted defence positions in a rather critical position. Now the second phase of General Alexander's offensive has started on Tuesday. The Fifth and Eighth Armies have simultaneously attacked on the Anzio Front and against the Hitler Line. The Fifth Army's beach-head drive is described as the start of a new phase in the Battle of Italy.

THERE are two roads along which Allies can advance from their present positions to Rome. One is the road leading through Cassino, up the narrow Liri Valley, to Caprano, past the Albian Mountains, to Rome. The approaches to this road were till recently barred by the German Gustav Line. The other one is the coastal road leading from the Fifth Army's positions on the Lower Garigliano through Minturno, Terracina, the Pontine Marshes, Cisterna and Valletri. But this road has been rendered impassable by the Germans flooding the Pontine Marshes which lie betwen Terracina and Cisterna. So the only practicable approach to Rome lies through Cassino which was the vital enemy bastion of defence on the Gustav Line. Cassino which had excellent natural and scientific defences acted like a road block but now resistance there has been cleared away and it is not now so difficult for the main body of the Eighth Army to move forward. American and French forces have captured Castleforte five miles above Minturno.

NOW the two-way Allied offensive launch in Italy constitutes a new and grave menace to Kesselring's forces south of Rome. Already the Eighth Army has cracked through one of the main defences of the Hitler Line in an attack, the object of which is to drive the Germans back to Rome. It is obvious that success in the Battle of Italy can be achieved mainly by the infantry, and all indications point to the fact that General Clark's Order of the Day issued before the attack—"We can, and will, destroy the German armies"—is likely to be carried out in perhaps a much shorter time than the Germans are bargaining for.

CONFERENCE OF PREMIERS IN LONDON

Mr. Churchill with Members of the Cabinet and Dominion Premiers photographed after the first meeting of the conference.

Left to right, 1st row.—*Lord Beaverbrook, Lord Woolton, Mr. Lyttelton, Sir John Anderson, Mr. Attlee, Mr. Peter Fraser (New Zealand), Mr. Mackenzie King (Canada), Mr. Winston Churchill, Mr. J. Curtin (Australia), Field Marshal Smuts (South Africa), Mr. Anthony Eden, Mr. Bevin, Mr. Morrison, Lord Cranborne and Mr. Amery.*

Left to right, 2nd row.—*Field Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, Colonel Reitz, Lord Cherwell, Mr. Bruce (High Commissioner, Australia), Sir Stafford Cripps, Sir James Grigg, Sir Firoz Khan Noon (India), H.H. The Maharaja of Kashmir, Sir G. Huggins (Southern Rhodesia), Mr. Oliver Stanley, Mr. A. V. Alexander, Sir Archibald Sinclair, Mr. Massey (High Commissioner for Canada), Mr. Brendan Bracken, Mr. Jordan, (High Commissioner, New Zealand), Admiral Sir A. Cunningham and Air Marshal Sir G. Portal.*

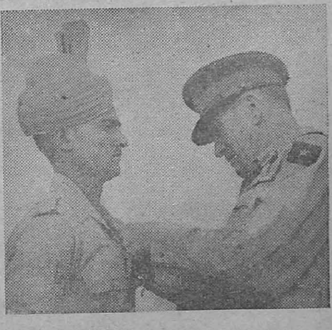
Left to right, back row.—*Sir J. Stephenson, Mr. N. Robertson, Sir R. Hopkins, Sir F. Shedden, General Sir T. Blamey, General Stuart, Sir H. Ismay, General Puttick, Mr. Forsyth, Sir E. Machtig, Mr. Mackintosh and Sir E. Bridges.*

RUNNING COMMENTARY

The Burma Front—Jap plans upset

The plans of the Japanese on the Burma front have been upset by Allied moves. The Japanese around Kohima were waiting for Imphal to fall, and those around Imphal were waiting for the fall of Kohima. Both these expectations have been dashed to the ground. The most important battle in the Kohima area has resulted in a clear victory to our troops, which have been consolidating their newly-won positions around Kohima. To make matters worse for the Japanese, Myitkyina, the most important and largest town in North Burma in Japanese hands, has been practically captured by General STILWELL's forces. The town was of great importance to the Japanese, because it commanded good communications to the south. Now the next objective of General STILWELL's forces and the Chindits under General LENTAIGNE is most probably Mogaung, about 30 miles west of Myitkyina, as that is the only way by which they can consolidate their positions and improve the communications. General STILWELL's brilliant strategy has practically brought about the collapse of the Japanese operations in North Burma and thereby made the Japanese threat to India a vanishing dream.

In the Arakan our troops have established themselves in well-chosen monsoon positions, and it is likely that the Japanese may make another



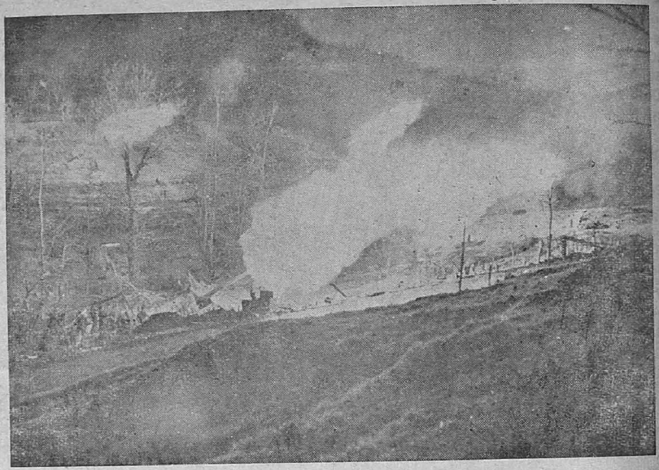
Jem. Azim Ullah of the 12th Frontier Force Regiment whose home is Village Daulatpur, Charsada, near Peshawar, receives the I.D.S.M. from the Commander-in-Chief.

attempt to dislodge them. The difficulties likely to be created by monsoon conditions are well realized by the Allies, but they are confident of living and fighting more efficiently than the Japanese in these unpleasant conditions. There is no complacency at all on the Allied side. They expect continuous heavy fighting before monsoon sets in, and are prepared for it. As for the Japanese, they give the impression that they are only improvising to meet a situation which is increasingly difficult for them and quite different from what they had expected.

* * *

Tokyo's Propaganda for the Chinese Having nothing much to show, Japanese propagandists have shifted their centre of interest from Burma to China. It seems as though they want to make up for unrealized imaginary victories by saying something to impress the Chinese. Tokyo has been busy trying to stress the point that Japan is not, after all, going to lose the war. But this impression has been successfully created, not on the Chinese, but on the Japanese people. In an article in the *Daily Mail*, Miss ARTEMISE GOERTZ, an American author, who has recently returned from Tokyo where she has lived since the war began, says that the Japanese are smugly convinced that they are going to win this war. "The strongest and most striking factor responsible for creating this cocksure attitude," she observes, "is the complete control which the Tokyo Government exercise over the minds, lives and activities of the Japanese people."

But Tokyo propaganda has not succeeded in making any headway in China. Not only have the Chinese refused to become victims of Japanese propaganda in regard to operations in Burma, but they have also declined to walk into the parlour set up by Tokyo regarding Allied help. It has been the constant endeavour of Tokyo to persuade the Chinese that no help can ever come to them from the Allies. But Japanese lies and libels have been nailed to the counter by *Ta Kung Pao*, a leading Chinese paper. The journal says in an article last month, when the Japanese claimed to have captured Kohima and Imphal, "We are not pessimistic. We believe in MOUNTBATTEN and AUCHINLECK and in all the British and Indian troops."



BATTLE FOR CASSINO.—Latest pictures received from the Cassino sector of the Fifth Army Front illustrate the weight of the offensive and the extent of the air support given to the Indian troops.

Gunners of an Indian formation keep up the barrage day and night.

Troops on patrol in the mountains.

INSIDE BURMA.—American Airborne engineers who landed in Gliders 200 miles behind the Japanese lines and prepared an airstrip, unknown to the Japanese, on which supplies could be landed for General Wingate's forces in North Burma.

F/Lt. A. Stickney Harris, 22, from Newcastle, Brunswick, Canada, former clerk in lumber company, and enlisted as aircrew in Catalina Squadron—volunteered for Combined Operations, later took charge of this small Royal Air Force Wireless Unit attached to British column who trucked 300 miles into Japanese occupied Assam.

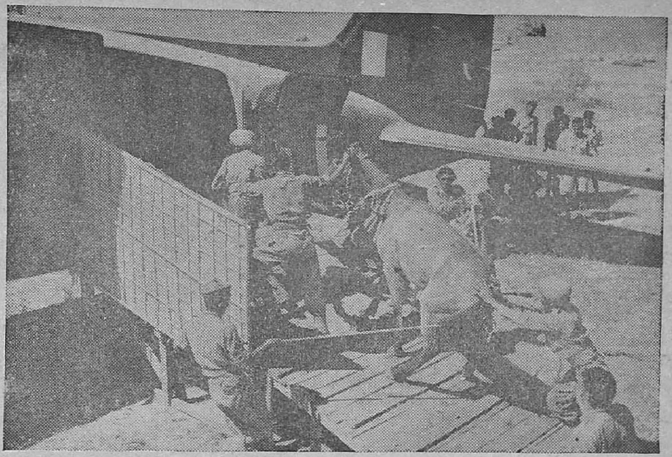
Photo shows *him cleaning his Tommy gun.*

Manipur Mis-representations —Chinese Confidence in Allies Replying to the Japanese comment that Allied communiques about the Manipur front resembled too closely those issued before the fall of Singapore, *Sao Tang Pao*, a newspaper of the Chinese Army, wrote on April 18: "The position now is different from what it was in 1942. Now the Allies have reinforcements close at hand." Referring to the transfer of Lord LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN's Headquarters to Ceylon, the paper says: "He has always urged an attack from the sea against Singapore and Rangoon. Without going as far as Singapore, the occupation of the Andaman Islands and a landing at Rangoon would change the whole position of the Indo-Burmese front. Perhaps some people may think that we take too light a view, but we certainly do not believe that the Allied forces in South-east Asia lack the strength for this."

These articles show that Japanese misrepresentations have not deflected the Chinese people from their determination to win the war against Japan or change their faith in Allied strength and co-operation.

KOHIMA BATTLE.—Great deeds of gallantry and devotion to duty were performed during the siege of Kohima, which was ultimately relieved. Combatants and non-combatants, British and Indian, deserve equal praise for their defence of Kohima and for the eventual defeat of Japanese plans.

Mr. C. R. Pawsey, Deputy Commissioner of Naga Hills, who remained with the garrison in the Kohima box during the heavy fighting.



FIFTH INDIAN DIVISION MOVES BY AIR.—Royal Air Force and American crews of Troop Carrier Command under Brigadier General Old recently moved by air the Fifth Indian Division from the Arakan to the Imphal Front. Indian and British troops, jeeps, and mules, food and ammunition were transported hundreds of miles in a couple of hours and shortly after the troops were in contact with the enemy on the new front.

This mule was rather reluctant but was eventually persuaded to enter the plane.

MADRAS AND THE BOMBAY DISASTER

A short notice recently appeared in the Press of the gift of Rs. 50,000 from the Madras Governor's War Fund to the Governor of Bombay, in token of this City's sympathy with the victims of recent explosions in Bombay. We put below the correspondence exchanged on the subject between His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope and His Excellency Sir John Colville:—

I

Letter, dated Ootacamund, May 3, 1944, from His Excellency the Hon'ble Sir Arthur Hope, G.C.I.E., Governor of Madras, to His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Colville, G.C.I.E., Governor of Bombay:—

My Dear Colville—We in Madras have read with profound regret the reports of the recent disaster in Bombay City and of the widespread distress caused among certain sections of the local population. On behalf of the people of Madras, the Committee administering the Madras War Fund has recommended a grant of Rs. 50,000 towards the alleviation of distress among the victims of this tragedy, and I am instructing the Honorary Treasurer of the Fund to remit this amount to your Secretary for disbursement as you think fit.

I should be glad if you would accept this contribution from the people of Madras as an expression of their deep sympathy for their fellow countrymen in Bombay in hardship and suffering which they have undergone.

II

Letter, dated Bombay, May 8, 1944, from His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, to His Excellency the Governor of Madras:—

My Dear Hope—Very many thanks indeed for your letter of the 3rd May and this most generous grant of Rs. 50,000 from your War Fund for the relief of the distress caused by the explosions and fires at the Docks. I am most grateful for this warm and practical expression of sympathy from the people of Madras, and I know that the news of this donation will be received with very deep appreciation by everyone in Bombay.

"THESE MADRASSI GUNNERS ARE EXCELLENT"

KOHIMA FRONT

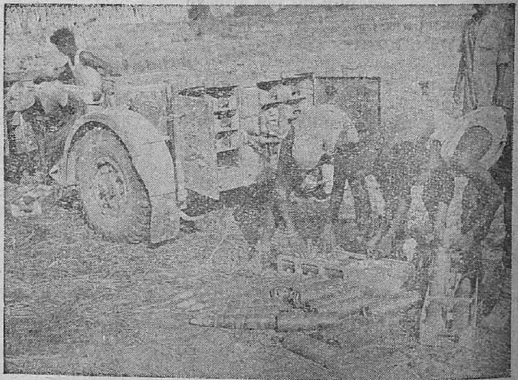
From manning Ack Ack guns on lonely Assam airfields to driving bulldozers through virgin jungle to enable infantry columns to reach the Japs—these and a hundred more are the tasks undertaken by Madrassis on this front, writes an Indian Army Observer from Kohima.

Eighteen months ago Lance-Naik Chotte Jan of Salem, Madras Province, was a bidi-maker. Today he is Number 1 on an Ack Ack gun. His whole detachment, like the rest in this regiment, are Madrassis and, in the words of Sergeant W. B. Washer of Lewes, Sussex, "These Madrassi gunners are excellent. They are as keen as any gunners I have ever met". And Sergeant Washer should know. He was an Ack Ack gunner throughout the Battle of Britain.

Everywhere Madrassis are doing their piece. You find them doing a host of specialist jobs—Lance-Naik Padari Gownder of Coimbatore is operating a unit switchboard, fitter P. N. Naidu of Madras is repairing electrical equipment. There are hundreds of drivers in charge of all types of vehicles, from my own jeep driven by Abrahim of Guntur district to Bulldozer Operator Pichai of Madura. Many of them were in the Kohima garrison which held out against superior Jap forces for thirteen days until relieved. A colonel thanked them for the excellent work they had done. His speech was interpreted by a young Madrassi doctor.

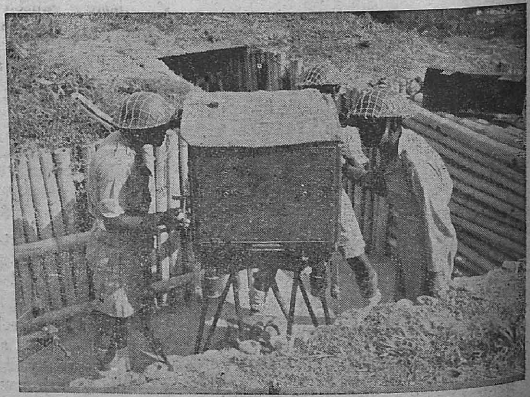
Serving with a Madrassi gun-crew is Gun Sergeant R. B. Washer whose address is County Hall, Lewes, Sussex.

An entire gun-crew at their positions in the Imphal area.



Twenty-five pounder shells are unloaded from a gun limber in Arakan by Madrassis.

Madrassi gunners in action in Arakan.



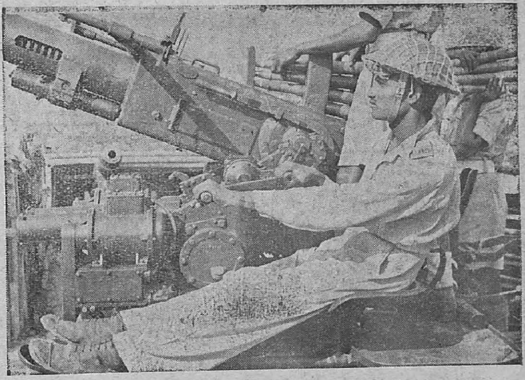
A Predictor crew at work in the Imphal area following the target.

ON BURMA FRONT

L/Naik Chotte Jan of Salem, Madras Province. Before the war he was a bidi-maker. To-day he is No. 1 on an Ack-Ack gun in the front line.

Gnr. Raju from Arni. He is No. 2, the Line-layer.

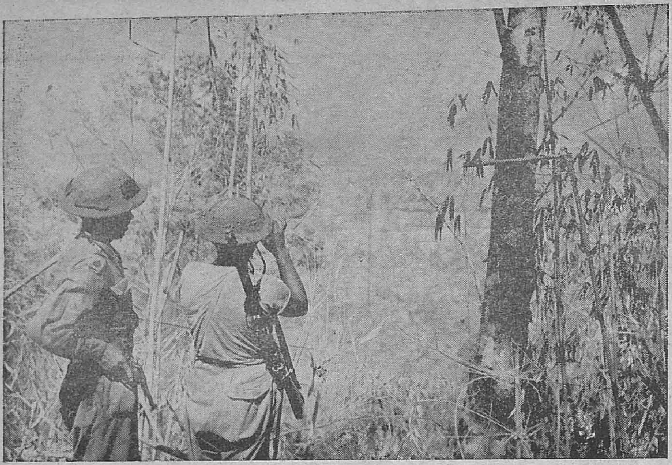
Gnr. Kannappian, North Arcot, helps change barrel.



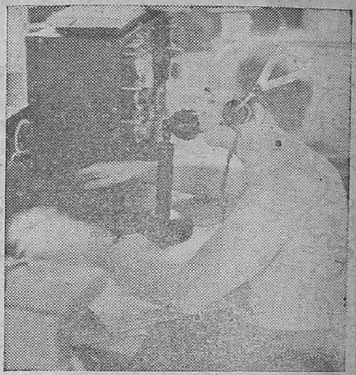
Gnr. Kandasami from Trichinopoly. He is No. 3, the Elevation-layer.

Gnr. Mottian from Chingleput, who controls the firing of his gun.

Gnr. Pichia, Madura. He is No. 4 who fires and loads.



GARHWALI TROOPS ON THE ARAKAN FRONT.—Fighting with our forces on the Arakan front are men of the 18th Royal Garhwali Rifles.
Garhwali Riflemen watch Japanese positions during the day—positions which they attacked the same night.



STRATEGIC AIR FORCE SUPPLY CORPS.—Good work is being done by the Air Transport Corps of the Strategic Air Force, who supply battle areas by air.

Controlling the arrival and departure of supply aircraft at a forward airfield on the Burma Front, is LAC F.H. Lynch, 11, West End Road, Southhall, Middlesex.

☆

SESHIAH, THE CURIOUS VILLAGER

(*By* R.G.)

CANTO I

First Instalment

The tale I tell is of a date
Not far from 1938
And rather earlier it may be
Than 1999 A.D.
In those far times there was a war
Which lasted five whole years or more
And made life difficult for most,
Not only those whose lives were lost.
Huge armies battled everywhere
And vast armadas thronged the air;
The seas were dangerous and filled
With sunken ships and cargoes spilled;
And over all the teeming earth
There was but little cause for mirth;
For neutrals too grew pale and thin
(Although they saved their precious skin)
And learnt neutrality can be
No substitute for liberty.

Now in this scene of dire confusion
There was a people whose delusion
Was thinking that a war is won
By getting simply nothing done.
They sat around and smoked and chatted
While their chief politicians ratted,
And would not take the matter seriously
Though propaganda spoke imperiously--
Until there came a frightful day
When hostile forces made their way
Right up to the north-eastern frontier
And said 'Please, honourable hunt here'.
From neighbouring lands the refugees
Streamed in more numerous than bees
When hives are broken by a storm
And all seek shelter, swarm on swarm.
With all these fugitive and blitzed
Tottering and sitting in their midst
The people about whom I write
Betrayed astonishment and fright,
Some thinking that the foe might land
While yet the army to withstand
His onset was not quite recruited
Nor trained nor well-equipped and booted,
And others casting round their eyes
And nothing with a shocked surprise
That rice no longer was imported
Because the foe the export thwarted.

MAP OF ITALY

Berne
SWITZERLAND
BRENNER PASS
AUSTRIA
Graz
HUNGARY
Bolzano
Trento
Udine
Ljubljana
Zagreb
Treviso
Goritsa
Novara
Vercelli
Milan
Brescia
Vicenza
Verona
Trieste
Lodi
Padua
Venice
Chioggia
Fiume
Susak
Ogulin
Brod
SAVA
Pavia
Mantova
PO RIVER
Turin
Asti
Piacenza
Rovigno
Alessandria
Tortona
Parma
Ferrara
Pola
Reggio
Modena
YUGOSLAVIA
Cuneo
Genoa
Bologna
Savona
Chiavari
Imola
Ravenna
San Remo
Faenza
Forli
Cesena
SAN MARINO
Zara
FRANCE
La Spezia
Carrara
Massa
Pistoia
Rimini
Sarajevo
Nice
Imperia
Lucca
Florence
Pesaro
Monte Carlo
MONACO
Pisa
Ancona
Spalato
Leghorn
(Livorno)
Arezzo
Cortona
CAPRAIA
Perugia
Piombino
ELBA
Foligno
Ascoli
Grosseto
Dubrovnik
(Ragusa)
Bastia
Calvi
PIANOSA
MONTE CRISTO
Pescara
Corte
Piana
Aleria
GIGLIO
TIBER
Ghisonaccia
Sulmona
Termoli
Peschici
Ajaccio
Vatican City
Rome
CORSICA
ITALY
Porto Vecchio
Campobasso
Foggia
Barletta
Bonifacio
MADDALENA IS
CAPRERA IS
Bari
ASINARA
Tempio
Benevento
Monopoli
Terranova
Altamura
Fasano
PONZIANE IS
Naples
Porto Torres
Sorso
Pozzuoli
Potenza
Martina Franca
Brindisi
Sassari
Salerno
ISCHIA
Ozieri
Taranto
Lecce
Alghero
Sorrento
CAPRI
Nuoro
Bosa
Otranto
SARDINIA
Gallipoli
Sorgono
Pisciotta
Sapri
Arbatax
Oristano
Sibari
Corigliano
Belvedere
Rossano
TYRRHENIAN SEA
Iglesias
Paola
Cosenza
Cagliari
Crotone
Carloforte
SAN PIETRO
Santa Antioco
SAN ANTIOCO
Catanzaro
Pizzo
USTICA
EOLIE ISLANDS
Palmi
Scilla
San Giovanni
Reggio Calabria
Barcellona
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Palermo
Trapani
Patti
Messina
Partinico
EGADI IS.
Alcamo
Cefalu
Taormina
STRAIT OF MESSINA
Marsala
Castelvetrano
SICILY
Menfi
Acireale
Mazara del Vallo
Ribera
Enna
Catania
STRAIT OF SICILY
Sciacca
Agrigento
Porto Empedocle
Bizerte
Augusta
GULF OF TUNIS
CAPE BON
Gela
Syracuse
Bone
Licata
Ragusa
La Calle
Tabarka
Vittoria
Noto
Modica
Pachino
Beja
Tunis
Kelibia
PANTELLERIA
ALGERIA
Medjez el Bab
Zaghouan
Nebeur
Nabeul
Hammamet
Souk Ahras
Le Kef
Pont du Fahs
Enfidaville
GOZO
TUNISIA
Valletta
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Maktar
Ousseltia
Sousse
Kairouan
Monastir
MALTA
0 50 100 150 Miles
USOWI

TWO YEARS OF MISERY: JAP PRISONER TELLS STORY

[*In the course of a Talk (delivered in Urdu) broadcast from All-India Radio, Delhi, on May 21, Jamadar Mohd. Yusuf Khan, one of the Twelve Indians who recently landed in India from a Japanese submarines, said—*

TO-DAY, after an absence of two years I find myself in my beloved homeland talking to my friends. This period I spent as a prisoner of war with the Japanese. Two years of misery; of utter helplessness. Back in my own country, I feel as if I have suddenly stepped out from a dark grave into a new world—a world full of life and freedom.

I have a story to tell—the story of a dead man resurrected.

On the 25th March at 9 a.m. we landed on Indian soil from a canvas boat. It was a place called Pasni. We buried our boat in sand and proceeded on foot to the village of Pasni. We met the zamindar of the village to whom we told our story. We had been sent to India by the Japanese but we never had any intention of doing what the Japs asked us to do, and asked him to report our arrival to the Military authorities. We showed him the things that the Japanese had given us—six revolvers and ammunition, dry ration and two wireless sets, one hidden in a bucket and the other in a hookah and money. Everyone of us had 900 rupees, and packets of diamonds worth thousands of rupees. The zamindar gave us food and drink and sent a message to Karachi. Next day a Major arrived and took us to Karachi. From there we came to Delhi.

This is the end of my story. A happy ending to a tragic tale. For the beginning I shall have to go back to the fateful day of 15th February 1942 when we were made prisoners by the Japanese. I was attached to the 8th infantry brigade transport company. All the personnel of this unit were sent to various prisoner-of-war camps and I was sent along with some of my comrades to Bidadari P.W. Camp where I was employed in looking after the supply and rationing of the prisoners.

These places were strictly guarded by the Japanese sentries and their inmates could only go out when required for labour, that is, to work on roads, aerodromes, removing of debris and heavy stones from one place to another. Working for nine hours a day without respite, we had to live on very meagre rations. The camp commandant later on, however, managed to get for us a quantity of the rice and atta—rice in the form of coarse powder and flour mixed with half dust. There was no salt, no chillies and no spices. Affairs became so bad that we were forced to protest to the Japanese authorities in the hope of some amelioration, but our protest was ignored.

JAP TEMPTATIONS

The Japanese in the early days would leave no method of persuasion untried to make us fall in with them. They would appeal to our sentiments in the name of so-called Asiatic Liberation and offer us various temptations. But when their cunning and persuasion failed they began to resort to tortures.

Every prisoner was asked to volunteer, and anyone refusing would be sent to concentration camps where they would be chained and subjected to corporal punishment and given most dirty rations, in consequence of which they would fall easy prey to dysentery and other diseases.

During this period Japanese atrocities had assumed such an alarming aspect that the prisoners sometimes rose in revolt. One morning came the news of a mutiny in a nearby camp. Soon after we understood that a large number of Indian officers and soldiers were sent to concentration camps. Such mutinies were not uncommon in prisoner-of-war camps and numerous incidents of firing and shooting occurred every week.

I spent about six months in Bidadari camp and all the time Japanese excesses upon these helpless victims increased.

One thing, however, I observed; if anyone submitted to the Japanese it was actually in the ultimate hope of finding his way out to India.

After six months I was transferred from Bidadri to "Saleter" P.W. Camp.

Prisoners here would cheerfully undergo all the suffering and miseries the enemy could inflict, rather than tarnish the fair name of their country and become his agents.

Hardly a week had elapsed after my transfer when this camp was visited by a Major to select persons for special jobs. I took it as a heaven-sent opportunity to escape from enemy hands, and so volunteered for special service.

I was attached to a group of Muslims who had been selected for espionage work. Our team was sent to Penang where we were given details of the work. All of us received training in propaganda, swimming, rowing and such things. Later on Mr. Subhas Bose interviewed us individually and instructed us how to present the picture to the Muslims of India.

MOVE TO SINGAPORE

After a few days we were ordered to move to Singapore. We were kept in Singapore for about two months and again a party of twenty was selected and ordered back to Penang. I was one of them. Here we underwent a further course of training and twelve out of the twenty were finally chosen for espionage work in India.

So on the happy morning of 27th February 1944, we commenced our journey to India. You can imagine very well how happy I felt, even though our journey was full of peril.

The commander of our submarine looked more like a cook than an officer. Extraordinarily short statured, with glaring eyes and long buck teeth, with a small towel round his neck and a shirt half covered by his knickers and half outside. His face looked as if unwashed for many days. Had I not known that our Mr. Musaka was the submarine commander, I would have never believed him to be an officer. The only symbol of his rank were the two stripes of his cap and they too were covered in dirt. Fortunately for us, none of the Japanese crew understood our language, so we were able to make fun of them.

Every day that passed brought us nearer home. Night after night I would keep watch on the compass and see how far was our country's shore. One day the Japanese submarine crew had a feast and we were invited. While dishes were being served to our surprise and anger we found pork dishes on our table. Naturally we objected and refused to take it,

(*Continued on page* 15.)

JAPS' CRUELTY TO INDIAN PRISONERS OF WAR

In the course of a broadcast (delivered in Urdu) from All-India Radio on Monday, May 22, Technical Warrant Officer Asal Nur Khan, I.A.O.C., one of the twelve Indian soldiers who recently landed in India from a Japanese submarines said :—

I thank God that to-day I am in a position to speak to you from my own country. Two months before the War with Japan began, I was in Ipoh, Malaya ; on the 8th December 1941 my unit was transferred from Ipoh to Jetra for active service along with the 28th Indian Infantry Brigade. For two months we fought ; but on the 15th February, Singapore fell and we were all taken prisoner.

I was separated from my unit and was attached to a mobile workshop. Later, along with other units we were packed off to Naisum Camp, where for the first two days we did not get any rations save for a few biscuits which were hardly sufficient for us.

PRISONER'S PITIABLE PLIGHT

There was absolutely no arrangement for our living. Some 19,000 prisoners were thrust into a place where hardly 500 men could stay. After two days rations came. Rice with a quantity of lime mixed with it gave dysentery to almost all of us. And there was no arrangement for treatment of patients. One by one they died. I estimate that more Indian soldiers died on account of the neglect of the Japanese in such camps than those who fought and died at the Front.

The treatment meted out by the Japanese to the Indian prisoners of war was very cruel. Even a Japanese soldier would, when dealing with officers of the Indian Army, behave in a disgraceful manner, such as slapping them for supposed misdemeanours. The Japanese deprived us of all our personal effects. They took away our watches and they beat us.

At eight in the morning they put us into lorries and made us work hard the whole day. And if anyone complained of the strain of hard labour the Japanese tortured him, and do not forget that in the mornings we were given no breakfast at all.

CRUELTY TO INDIANS

As everyone knows by now, the Japanese are always very cruel to Indian prisoners of war. I had the opportunity of seeing other prison camps also and I can say that in all the Japanese prison camps Indian prisoners, are treated alike with the utmost cruelty.

The only way to free ourselves from the yoke of the enemy was to pretend that we were eager to co-operate with him. I started talking in a manner which would convince the Japs that I was a pro-Jap who could be very useful to them. So my name was included in the list. In September we reached Penang where we underwent training for one year.

In the training school we got no time to offer our prayers even. The climax of Japanese cruelty was reached when on the Id Day we were assembled in an open space and a Japanese Officer ordered us to offer prayers with our faces towards the Imperial Palace of Japan. What could be more humiliating to a Moslem ? But we were all helpless. One of our friends was offering the Azan when a Japanese soldier came forward and gagging his mouth, pulled him away. He was, we learnt later, beaten cruelly. Asked what the offence was, the Japanese said that he was facing towards the west while he offered his Azan.

SUPREME CONSIDERATION

However, to reach India by hook or crook was our supreme consideration. So we were on the look-out for a suitable opportunity to get out of the Japanese trap. There was one thing which all of us had in common. We were always afraid that the Japs might come to know our real intentions, and what little hope we had of getting to our motherland might be lost indefinitely. So we always acted in such a way that the Japs should feel that we were one with them in every respect. Even so, they watched us with suspicion.

On the 27th of February we embarked on a submarine. Our feelings at that time were very strange. We feared lest there might be a last minute hitch ; the Japs might come to know all or something about our intentions and the prospects of our reaching India might be lost for ever. So we took all possible care when we talked to our companions.

On the 25th of March we landed on Indian soil at a place called Pasni. We were so weak and rundown that we could not even walk freely. But as we touched our motherland, we felt beside ourselves with joy. We thanked God that we had got out of the Japanese hell and reached our own country. We, who a few moments ago could not walk even, felt so strong that we were willing to undertake a long journey.

Hastily we made for Pasni. We wanted to contact some one to whom we could surrender. At a distance of about 1½ miles we came across a town post, where we received kind treatment and the first good meals we had had in two long years.

The next day an aeroplane took us to Karachi. From Karachi we left for Gwalior on a Flying Boat and from there we entrained for Delhi . . . . and now all of us are living happily with our families.

(*Continued from page* 14.)

at which the Japanese got annoyed and tauntingly remarked that as soon as they were in India, all such superstitions would be done away with.

At last on the night of March 16/17 we got somewhere near our shores and the Japanese tried to land us on the coast. They launched two boats into the sea but one of them overturned. Next night we again tried, but the other boat also got damaged. So Mr. Musaka suggested that we should kill some fishermen and use their boat. Naturally we would not consent to such an abhorrent act.

LANDING ON INDIAN SOIL

A week or so passed and the boats had by then been repaired, so we got into them and made for Pasni. Landing on the sacred Indian soil we embraced each other and there were tears of joy in our eyes.

MADRASSI SIGNALLER'S BIRTHDAY GIFT.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S CHOICE

No. 05120 enrolled Non-Combatant Arokiasami, of the Indian Signal Corps, has been selected by General Sir Claude Auchinleck to receive a special birthday gift of Rs. 100.

The gift was donated by Sardar Nawab Sir Naharsinhji, Thakor of Amod, Broach and Panch Mahals District, to be given to a wounded soldier considered by the Commander-in-Chief as being the most deserving.

Arokiasami, whose address is Munireddipalayam, Hebbal, Bangalore, was badly wounded in a mine explosion at Tobruk while serving with headquarters of the 5th Indian Divisional Signals.

WAR AND DIAMOND INDUSTRY

THE war has brought about revolutionary changes in the diamond-cutting industry. Just as the production and the sale of diamonds is a close monopoly, controlled by the De Beers interests, so the cutting and polishing of diamonds were, before the war, industries virtually monopolised by two centres. They were Antwerp, which employed about 80 per cent of all the diamond-cutters and polishers of the world, and Amsterdam. which employed another 17 per cent. The main explanation of this concentration of the industry was to be found in the supply in each of these towns of the cheap, and yet expert, labour which the trade requires.

Plans were made early in 1940 to move the bulk of the Antwerp labour to London, but, like many other plans which were being formulated about that time, they were too slow in getting into motion and were overtaken by the German invasion of the Low Countries. The continuity of this industry, which had become essential to the war machine, had to be improvised in other countries. A number of refugees from Antwerp and Amsterdam reached England and established a small-scale industry here. Others crossed the Atlantic. Before the war there were 300 diamond workers in the United States of America; now there are 3,500.

A certain number of Belgian and Dutch refugees also got held up in Cuba and Mexico on their way to the United States, and, helped by cheap local labour, they have set up local diamond industries in those countries. South Africa is another centre where the industry, helped by direct subsidisation from the South African Government, has made some headway since 1940. It is, however, in Palestine that the biggest development has occurred. The diamond workers in that country have risen from 200 to over 3,000 since the invasion of Belgium.

The Belgian authorities are understandably disturbed at this dispersion of an industry which before the war was so largely centralised in Antwerp. An organization has been formed, called Correspondence Office for the Diamond Industry (Cofdi for short), to represent the interests of the Belgian industry. It keeps in touch with emigrant diamond workers all over the world and attempts to keep alive their desire to return to Antwerp after the war.

It has also negotiated with the Diamond Syndicate and with the Diamond Control at the Ministry of Supply a number of agreements, the object of which is as far as possible to safeguard the post-war position of Antwerp as the largest diamond-cutting centre in the world. These efforts have met with some success. For example, exports of rough stones from Britain to Mexico and Brazil have been prohibited altogether. Supplies for Palestine and Cuba have been limited to rigid ceilings. The Diamond Trading Company is maintaining a stock of rough stones valued at several million pounds which will be made available to the Antwerp industry as soon as Belgium has been liberated. This reserve of stones is being maintained without any interest payment.

ODE FOR VICTORY

By M. KRISHNAMURTI

[*At the end of the sixth book of the Rigveda, the oldest and the most sacred book of the Hindus—and, incidentally, one of the great war sagas of the world—is an entire hymn in honour of the soldier and his weapons of war. The following lines are, in the main, founded on it and certain other passages of this great Scripture.*]

I

A goodly sight
Is the well-accoutred warrior,
As seated in his battle-car
He moveth in the fight:
He shineth in the chariot's gloom
As lightning in the rain-cloud's womb!

How like a hero's car
In very truth is the storm cloud,
When Indra goes to war
And puts to panic rout
The Dragon-brood of Drought!
Bright gleam the felloes then, and loud
Their thunder sounds, as o'er the bowed
And prostrate enemy
They roll to Victory!

Ah, Victory is the prize
We seek contending in this wise
On Earth and in the skies!
Victory is the merchandise
For which our ships put out to sea!
Victory is the hero's guerdon,
And of the poet's song the burden.
Heaven grant us Victory!

II

Yea, goodly to the eye,
And comely as the Day Star
In his own splendour hid,
Is the warrior panoplied,
As gleaming in chest and thigh
He dawns on the field of war.
None shall his beauty mar!
Surer and more close-fitting than his mail
Are these my prayers! They shall not fail!
Like as a bridegroom to the bridal room,
Let him go meet the battle's doom!

What of our warrior-maids, who ply the loom,
Weaving the garments for their hero-swains,
And in their absence drive the harvest-wains
And tend the fields; while some in their first bloom
Have donned their battle-dress
And shown that in their veins still flows
The blood of many a warlike ancestress
Who was the terror of her country's foes?

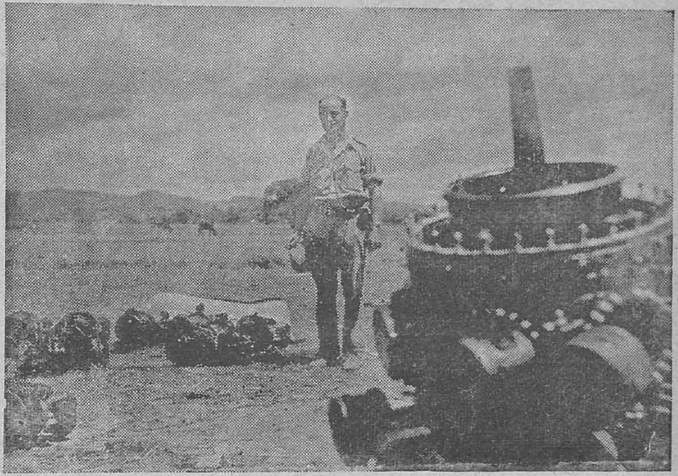
What shall I say of these?—Save to give praise
That here again are the old heroic days,
When like the holy mountains men stood guard
And with the Rivers did the women vie
To nourish all the land: grim times and hard,
But with a glory the shabby years of peace
Could scarce lay claim to! Gods most high!
When of your mercy we have won surcease
Of slaughter and of blood,
See that we fall not to the husks again
Or wallow in the aboriginal mud,
But seek the Light still, till at last we gain
Admission to the Portals of the Sun
And passing inward with all strife be done!

REPAIR AND SALVAGE UNITS OF THE R.A.F.

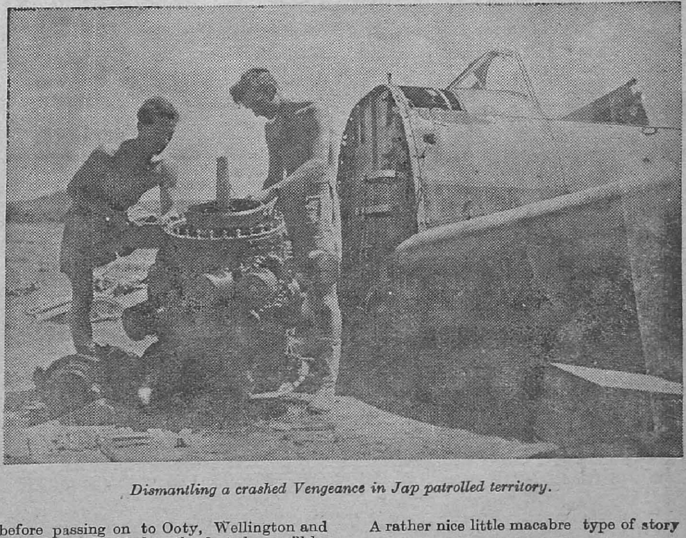
AMONG little known units of the R.A.F. is the R. & S.U., or to you, the Repair and Salvage Units—those airmen and officers trained in the salvage of damaged or crashed aircraft who at times forge far into the plains and jungles sometimes right under nose of the enemy to reclaim equipment, thus saving many millions of sterling.

Their work—which is sometimes fraught with danger—is equal to any other in the service especially when applied to the Burma fronts and the different terrain which it involves. They are self contained units, fully mobile, usually split up into salvage parties with a sergeant in aircraft. These parties are despatched to the scene directly after a preliminary reconnaisance of the area by an aircraft attached to the unit for that purpose. Upon reaching the spot—sometimes after days or weeks of arduous travel by truck, rivercraft or on foot, the damage is assessed and it is decided whether the crashed aircraft can be repaired on the spot and flown out or dismantled and carted away. The latter may involve the recruiting of local labour, the securing of barges, sampans and flats and the use of bullock carts and other means of easily obtained road transport.

Difficulties are met and overcome. The army is contacted to ascertain whether the salvage party are liable to be under enemy shell fire, shot at by the snipers or harrassed by enemy patrols. If this is the case then it is all in the day's work but it is nice to know from what direction it may come. Where possible the army provide a guard but then this is a war of improvisation and the parties must be ready for anything—and ready for anything they are. Hats are also off to the unit's test pilot who, where possible, flies the repaired bomber or fighter back to an airfield. Not off a well-suffaced runway but off a strip hacked out of the paddy field, cleared and levelled. All this is done by the salvage party with the help of coolies—if available.



R.A.F. SALVAGE UNITS INSIDE JAP TERRITORY.—An N.C.O. in-charge of Salvage work inside Jap territory.



Dismantling a crashed Vengeance in Jap patrolled territory.

"LOVE IN A MIST"

The entertainment provided by the E.N.S.A. party arriving in Madras next week is a hilarious comedy entitled "LOVE IN A MIST" by Kenneth Horne.

The play had a successful run at Bombay, Poona and Secunderabad. "LOVE IN A MIST" is booked for two nights in Madras before passing on to Ooty, Wellington and Bangalore. In Madras the first show will be at 6-30 p.m. on Wednesday, 31st May in the Gymnasism at Fort St. George and the second at the Museum theatre at 6-30 p.m. on 1st June, admission charges are Re. 1, As. 8 and As. 4.

For the second show seats may be booked in advance at the Museé Musical. Members of all services may bring civilian guests.

"Love in a mist" ran for several weeks in London and is first class entertainment.

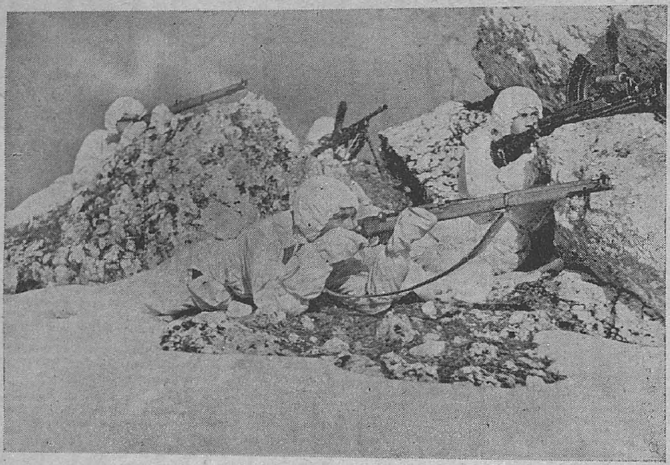
A rather nice little macabre type of story from *The Forum*, Johannesburg:—

In the military hospital, a couple of medical orderlies were playing cards, when there was a knock on the door.

"Who is it?" yelled one.

A quiet voice answered: "Rigor Mortis. May I set in?"

INDIANS IN ITALY



INDIAN LANCERS PATROL SNOW-CAPPED MOUNTAINS IN ITALY.—Indian Lancers act as Reconnaissance Regiment for an Indian Division operating in Italy. In the mountain regions they are equipped with snow suits, which greatly reduce the chances of being detected by the enemy. Sniping at enemy positions.

Barbed wire entanglements laid out by the Germans are cut by the "snow patrol."

BALUCHIS' EXPLOIT IN ITALY

In the early hours of a morning a Baluch patrol attacked a farm-house in No Man's Land which had been occupied by the enemy the previous night. The patrol was led by Major J. K. Chandy who comes from Aymaran, Travancore State.

Approaching the building, the patrol opened up concentrated fire from several directions and then rushed the building. Its occupants, unnerved by the attack, did not wait for closer combat but ran away suffering a number of casualties.

On my way to forward positions I saw men of the patrol cleaning their Bren guns and other weapons and I asked them about raid. L/Naik Barkat Hussain of Gujarkhan, District Rawalpindi, answered:

"Mamuli kam tha. Dushman mamuli hai. Teen duffa ham ne fire kia, aur dushman bhag gia. Bus." (It was very ordinary. The enemy were ordinary. We fired on them three times and they ran away. That's all.)

In these few words he dismissed a courageous action involving a difficult patrol in the dark hours before the dawn.

Later, returning from forward positions (writes the Observer), I saw the same men sitting on the steps of an Italian farm-house singing and clapping their hands in time to music. L/Nk. Barkat Hussain was using an empty petrol-can as a *dholak* to accompany the singers.

One *jawan* was sitting in a chair in the stone courtyard teaching the four-year-old Italian, son of the family which despite the fighting still lives in the farm-house, to beat time to Indian music with his tiny hands.

The most welcome news of this centenary day was that shortly a party of fifty men is being sent on home leave to India. Another batch, sent a few months ago, has now returned to this theatre. The sepoys will get two clear months in India before boarding a ship to return to their battalion.

"RED-BAND TURBANS" IN ITALY

"Our spectacular move from one side of Italy to another in this campaign was only possible with the help of the steadfast Indian and British Policemen of the C.M.P. (India). We are justly proud of the co-operation between British and Indian Policemen in the Corps."

This was what the Assistant Provost Marshal of an Indian Division in Italy said to an Indian Army Observer, when he described the excellent work of the Corps of Military Police (India).

It is the responsibility of the C.M.P. (I) to keep men, material and ammunition constantly on the move and to ensure that they move fast enough where a battle may depend on rapid movement of supplies.

The C.M.P. (I)'s lay out routes in advance of a move, examining the roads carefully for bottle-necks or diversions. Ubiquitous traffic posts are manned day and night and these "information bureaux" where the well-informed military Police furnish information about the location and position of every unit of the division are at once the source of confidence to the convoys on the move and the secret of some of the rapid movements with which we have often surprised the enemy.

The drivers of all the Division's transport know and respect these efficient "red caps" and the "red-band turbans" who are continually on patrol, sorting out traffic blocks, helping drivers, assisting them with their mechanical knowledge during breakdowns. The C.M.P. (I) also keep in close touch with sappers and workshops so that the breaks in the roads are repaired without waste of time, and vehicles with serious mechanical breakdowns are recovered.

WAR DIARY

A Cochin State labour unit engaged in military construction. (The men work to music. The man in the foreground is beating a tin-can drum.)

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

17TH MAY.—Allied planes attacked objectives in Berlin.

A declaration by the Commonwealth Premiers is published.

18TH MAY.—The House of Commons to-day went into secret session.

19TH MAY.—"The issue of the great battle for Europe may not be decided by coming operations in west or by either attacks from the Mediterranean and Russian fronts, but by all three combined" said General Smuts at Birmingham to-day.

General D. Eisenhower has just returned to his headquarters from a quick trip in England and North Ireland to visit air and ground troops.

Mr. Eden stated in the Commons that 47 officers of the R.A.F., Dominion and Allied Forces had been shot by the Germans after a mass escape from Staalag camp.

Nearly 1,000 planes attacked Berlin, Brunswick, Brandenburg, Schlsweig, Holstein and Macklanburg.

20TH MAY.—Cologne was heavily bombed.

21ST MAY.—Allied aircraft attacked objectives in North-west, North, Central and East Germany last night and to-day.

22ND MAY.—Allied bombers heavily bombed Kiel and Dnisburg.

His Majesty the King and General Sir Bernard Montgomery had a long talk to-day.

23RD MAY.—Marshal Rundstedt had a conference with Marshal Rommel to discuss defence problems.

Last night about 1,000 Allied bombers attacked Brunswick, Dortmund and Ludwigshafen. American planes bombed objectives in Western Germany to-day.

German planes raided some places in South Coast of England.

* * *

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

17TH MAY.—President Roosevelt made a statement on the International Labour Conference. He signed the third year's extension of the Lend-Lease Act.

British frigates have sunk two German U-boats while on patrol in the North Atlantic.

19TH MAY.—President Roosevelt has decided to call a World Monetary Conference and a definite date has been fixed. Fiscal experts from more than thirty of the United and Associated Nations are expected to attend.

Mr. James Forrestal became the 48th United States Secretary of the Navy to-day.

21ST MAY.—The Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Adolfe A. Barle, predicted that the next war, if it comes, will probably commence with an attack on the United States.

22ND MAY.—The Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, returned to Ottawa. He declared that he was confident of ultimate victory.

The Chief of the United States Army Air Force, General Henry H. Arnold, asserted in a speech that the aerial pounding of German-held territory constituted invasion "in the deadliest sense of the word."

* * *

INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

17TH MAY.—There was no major activity around Kohima. East and south of Imphal there is nothing to report. In the Arakan, there is no change.

18TH MAY.—American-Chinese forces seized the southern aerodrome at Myitkyina yesterday.

19TH MAY.—On 18th, Brigadier-General Merril's American and Chinese forces have penetrated into the outskirts of Myitkyina. In Kohima sector there was patrol activity. Allies captured Nawraw Sakan.

20TH MAY.—The Japanese garrison of Myitkyina is being driven out by American-Chinese forces who are steadily closing in from three sides. The village of Zigyun has been occupied.

21ST MAY.—One-third of Myitkyina including the railway station is in Allied hands. The villages of Namkur and Charpate were captured.

22ND MAY.—Heavy rains hampered military operations around Myitkyina. The Japanese recaptured the Myitkyina railway station.

23RD MAY.—It is revealed that His Excellency the Viceroy recently paid a flying visit to the Chindits in North Burma.

In the Imphal area the enemy has received some reinforcements and is making determined efforts to regain initiative. In the Myitkyina area heavy rain again hindered operations and there was no substantial change in the position.

* * *

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

17TH MAY.—Soviet forces are rehearsing and perfecting their tactics for the next big push while the lull in ground operations on the Russo-German front persists. Soviet planes attacked Minsk, Baronovitchi and Kholm.

22ND MAY.—German attacks north-west of Tirarpol and south-east of Stanislavov were repulsed. Soviet aircraft sunk a German transport of 6,000 tons in the Gulf of Finland.

23RD MAY.—Soviet bombers attacked enemy objectives.

* * *

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

17TH MAY.—The battle for Gustav Line continues without pause. The Eighth Army bridgehead has been enlarged. South of Liri River all positions in Gustav Line have been overrun. Fifth Army continues to fight its way forward to contact with Adolf Hitler Line.

18TH MAY.—The Allies have captured Cassino. The Gustav Line south of the Appenines has ceased to exist. The Adolf Hitler Line is now under attack. Allied troops are now in contact with the outposts of the Hitler Line in the Liri Valley. American troops captured Formia—a port on the Appian Bay. Esperia has also fallen.

19TH MAY.—Allied forces have broken into Hitler Line fortifications along its entire length. Allied blows had forced the Germans into a disorderly retreat.

20TH MAY.—Germans have 'transferred' the main Hitler Line to new defence points closer to Rome. Allied forces occupied Gaeta, Mount Mandrone and Campodimele.

21ST MAY.—Allied troops have occupied Fondi and Piedemonte, the northern anchor of the Hitler Line. Offensive by the Allied armies continue without a pause, severe pressure being maintained on the enemy all along the battle front.

22ND MAY.—Allies captured Monte Marino, Monte Antone, Monte San Biagio and Monte Capiccio. Hard fighting to evict the enemy from the Adolf Hitler Line continues. Field Marshal Kesselring has moved all his mobile reserves into the battle for Italy.

23RD MAY.—The Fifth Army has launched an offensive in the Anzio beach-head, thus starting a new phase in the Battle of Italy. The Eighth Army has advanced beyond the Acquino-Pontecorvo road. Germans have evacuated Pico.

* * *

VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND THE OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

17TH MAY.—Marshal Petain received Marshal Von Rundstedt, the German Anti-invasion Chief.

Carrier-based aircraft attacked German shipping in Norwegian waters.

18TH MAY.—More than 500 American bombers attacked Rumanian oilfields in Ploeste and railway yards in Yugoslavia.

19TH MAY.—Allied bombers attacked military objectives in Northern France including Boulogne, Orleans, Le Mars and Tours.

20TH MAY.—United States bombers in daylight to-day attacked Atorlay and Villacoubaly near Paris and Champagne near Rheims.

King Peter is trying to form a "Unity Cabinet" for Yugoslavia.

22ND MAY.—Allied planes attacked Pas de Calais area.

23RD MAY.—Allied planes bombed Orleans and Le Mars in France.

It is stated that a new Bulgarian Cabinet will be formed by Kristo Kalkov. President of the Bulgarian National Assembly.

The King of Greece has entrusted M. Papandreou with the formation of a new Government of National Unity.

* * *

THE NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

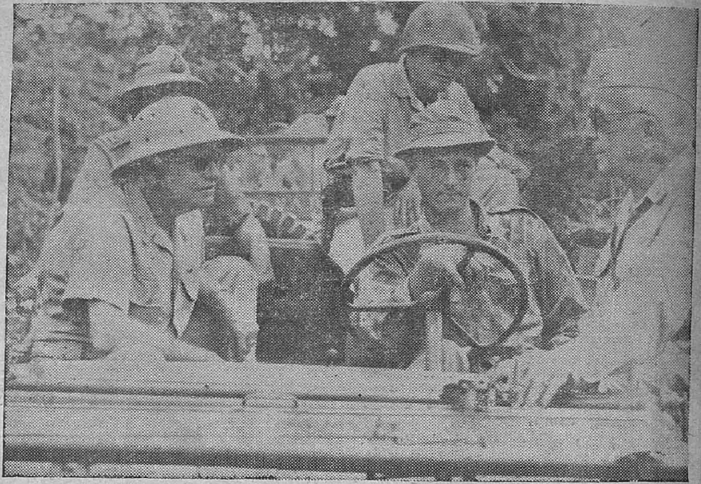
17TH MAY.—Mr. Eden made a statement on Spain implementing its pact with the Allies.

20TH MAY.—The German Consulate at Tangier has been closed.

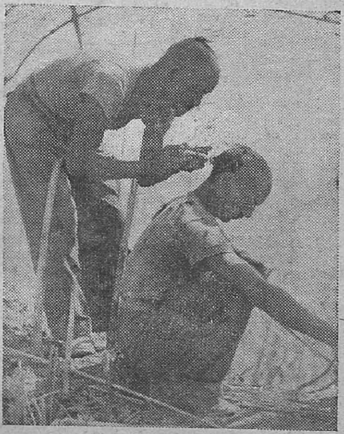
* *

THE FAR EAST

17TH MAY.—Jap fishing fleet north of Kurile Islands were attacked on Saturday and Sunday, it is disclosed. Jap positions in Marshalls were attacked.



ALLIED COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF SOUTH PACIFIC VISITS NEW BASE.—United States Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. (in left front seat of car), *Commander-in-Chief of Allied forces in the South Pacific, talks with United States' Vice-Admiral Aubrey W. Fitch* (leaning on car), *Commander of Allied Air Forces in the South Pacific, during an inspection tour of the Green Islands, Allied base in the South-west Pacific, recently seized from the Japanese. UnitedStates' Rear Admiral Robert B. Carney, Chief of Staff to Admiral Halsey, is sitting back of the driver. By capturing the Green Islands, Allied forces gained a base* 130 *miles from the Japanese stronghold at Rabaul, New Britain. and trapped stray enemy garrisons scattered throughout the Northern Solomons.*



GARHWALI TROOPS ON THE ARAKAN FRONT.—Fighting with our forces on the Arakan front are men of the 18th Royal Garhwal Rifles.

A front-line haircut. A Garhwali rifleman acts barber to a comrade.

The United States Navy Secretary, Mr. James Forrestal, made a statement on the Pacific war.

General Shang-Chen, head of the Chinese Military Mission, arrived at Washington.

18TH MAY.—Allied forces have seized Wadke off Dutch New Guinea and landed at Aara.

Sourabaya, the main Japanese base in Netherlands East Indies, has been heavily bombed.

20TH MAY.—President Roosevelt announced to-day that Vice-President Henry Wallace has left for China to gather information of utmost importance.

21ST MAY.—Allied forces raided Ogasawana in Bonin and Minamiorishima Island (Marcus).

22ND MAY.—In China the situation in the Loyang sector remains unchanged. Chinese recaptured Lushan. In Eastern Honan, the Chinese recaptured Shushih, Chankgo, Weichwan. In Southern Honan Chinese forces recaptured Sinantien and Kumlung in Yunan.

Ponape Island and Jap positions in the Marshalls were bombed.

23RD MAY.—Allied planes are now using the Wadke airfield. Enemy positions in Wewak and Kavieng area were bombed.

PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS, AND PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF WAR PUBLICITY, "VICTORY HOUSE," MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS.